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SOURCE Chekiang Jih-pao.

GOVERNMENT TAKES STEPS TO CONTROL  
BLACK MARKET IN CHEKIANG FIBERS

On 7 August 1951, the Chekiang Provincial People's Government promulgated Provisional Procedures to Control Cotton and Hemp Purchases [Text published in Hangchow Chekiang Jih-pao, 8 August], which provide that any public or private industrial or commercial enterprise purchasing cotton or hemp from the producing areas must obtain approval from the Cotton and Hemp Purchase Control Committee.

Since the promulgation of the control procedures, a few speculators who view the nation's laws with contempt have been making illegal purchases of these fibers around Hangchow, Ningpo, Hu-chou, Lin-hai, and Hsiao-shan. Ten-odd firms, including Chu-fu-hsing, Hu-ch'ing-shun, and Yuan-ch'ang-hsing, in the Kung-shu section [presumably Kung-ch'en-ch'iao and Hu-shu] of Hangchow have purchased more than 4,700 catties of unspun hemp without soliciting the approval of the control committee. Around Pao-shan-ch'iao, in Hangchow, speculators approach hemp farmers between 0200 and 0500 hours, under cover of darkness, to purchase unspun hemp.

In Ningpo, such firms as Ho-shun-hao, Li-ch'un-hang, Li-ch'eng-chi, Ch'in-i-hang, Tzu-ta, and Yuan-ho-kung have been surreptitiously purchasing cotton by agreement with merchants in other areas after the cotton has come on the market. Undercover purchases are huge. The Ch'in-i-hang alone has picked up more than 70,000 catties. According to information received by the Tax Bureau, one merchant in Hu-chou has bought up more than 47,000 catties of hemp since the harvest.

In certain other areas, industrial and commercial administrative agencies hold far too little respect for the cotton and hemp market controls. This condition must be corrected immediately.

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